



School Safety Enforcement Fund Annual Report
HB 705, Ch. 87, 2008
PS § 4-204

Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.
Executive Director
Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention

Submitted by:
Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention

Contact: Ellen Blonder
410-697-9293 | ellen.blonder@maryland.gov

MSAR #6922
August 15, 2017

Introduction

During the 2000 Legislative Session, House Bill 104, Vehicle Laws – Drivers Failing to Stop for School Buses – Enforcement Initiative, was passed by the Maryland General Assembly. This bill established a five year program, which became effective on January 1, 2001, to provide grant funds to assist law enforcement agencies in addressing the problem of drivers illegally passing stopped school vehicles. During the 2002 Maryland General Assembly, Senate Bill 323, the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2002, made the School Bus Safety Enforcement Program permanent by deleting the sunset provision of the law which had created the program.

The legislation created a special non-lapsing fund, known as the School Bus Safety Enforcement Fund. During the 2008 Legislative Session, House Bill 705 transferred the administration of the School Bus Safety Enforcement Fund from the Maryland State Police (MSP) to the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention (Crime Control & Prevention), effective July 1, 2008.

This fund provides \$600,000 annually to Crime Control & Prevention, of which \$550,000 is awarded in the form of grants to qualified law enforcement agencies for enforcement programs. Crime Control & Prevention may use up to \$50,000 of the \$600,000 to offset the cost of administering this program. To ensure that grant funds are dispersed throughout the State, at the start of each fiscal year, no more than \$35,000 in grants may be awarded per county. However, if grant funds remain after initial awards are made, supplemental awards may be made.

During the 2016 Legislative Session, changes were made to the statute broadening the scope from school bus safety enforcement to school safety enforcement. This went into effect October 1, 2016 and impacted the round of funding for fiscal year 2018. The Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention met with Maryland's Center for School Safety to define school safety funding priorities beginning in fiscal year 2018. Additionally, the legislation expanded funding eligibility to include county boards of education.

National School Bus Statistics

Each January since the 1970-1971 school year, the Kansas Department of Education has conducted the Annual National School Bus Loading and Unloading Zone Survey on the number of fatal accidents in the "danger zone" around school buses. The danger zone includes the area 10 feet in front and 10 feet behind and both sides of the school bus. The survey data shows these areas are where most bus accidents and fatalities to school children occur. Children are either run over by their own school bus or struck by a motorist passing stopped school buses. Since the inception of this survey, the United States has experienced a total of 1,230 school bus related child fatalities in the loading and unloading areas.

The National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services recently released the results of its annual national stop-arm violation count for 2017. Over 104,000 school bus drivers from 29 states participated in the survey. According to the survey, 77,972 vehicles illegally passed stopped school buses in a single day. If this sample was extrapolated to a 180 day school year, there would be over 14 million violations per school year. The survey's results are strictly used to increase awareness.

Grant Funds Awarded

In late winter/early spring of each year, a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) is placed on the Crime Control & Prevention website to inform local law enforcement agencies that grant applications for the School Bus Safety Enforcement Program are being accepted. Eligible agencies are local law enforcement agencies which include county and municipal police departments, sheriff's departments (in the counties where a sheriff's department is the primary local law enforcement agency), some barracks of the Department of State Police. The agencies which apply for grants are required to describe the specific problem associated with vehicles passing stopped school buses in their jurisdiction, and their proposed enforcement plan of operation. Grant awards are aligned with the school year running from August 1st to June 30th. In FY 2018, eligible applicants also include County Boards of Education.

After the applications are received, a multi-tier grant review is conducted to select the grant recipients and determine each agency's grant award. During the grant review, each agency's specific problem(s), goal(s) and plan(s) to conduct enforcement efforts are considered. The number of schools in the service area, school population, coordination with other agencies, requirement to meet with Pupil Transportation Board, past experience and the number of personnel assigned to each applicant law enforcement agency are factors that also are considered. The funding manager makes certain that the technical requirements of applications are met and that proposals adhere to state program funding requirements. An evaluation summary document consolidating the findings of all reviews is presented to the Executive Director. The Executive Director takes all information into consideration and makes final decisions regarding awards.

Appendix A "Grant Recipients" lists the agencies which received funding, by county, during FY 2017. A total of \$541,400 was awarded among 50 state and local law enforcement agencies using FY 2017 School Bus Safety Enforcement funds.

Funds were allocated to law enforcement agencies in 22 Maryland counties. All applicants received funding. During the Fiscal Year, some agencies de-obligated their funds due to manpower constraints which had prevented them from fully participating in the program. The de-obligated funds were then redistributed to agencies which demonstrated a need for additional

funds. **Appendix A** includes all initial amounts awarded to each jurisdiction before any funds were redistributed.

Funding was provided to law enforcement agencies for officers to enforce, on an overtime basis, existing State laws regarding failure to stop for a stopped school bus. The format for enforcement was determined by each agency. Some methods of enforcement included: officers following school vehicles, in either marked or unmarked patrol cars, to stop violators; officers riding on school vehicles, then communicating with patrol vehicles by radio when infractions were observed; and officers stationed on school campuses during pick-up and drop off which, in addition to stopping violators, provided enhanced safety on campus.

Funding was also provided for media resources to promote both enforcement and education efforts of Maryland residents regarding school bus driving laws. Funding included billboards, radio and movie advertisements and Public Services Announcements. These media resources educated and informed Maryland residents and assured them that aggressive steps were being taken by local law enforcement to increase and ensure the safety of Maryland's students.

Effect of the Program

The goal of the School Bus Safety Enforcement Program is to reduce serious injuries and fatalities caused by motorists who fail to stop and/or remain stopped for school buses.

Agencies receiving grants report to Crime Control & Prevention the number of citations issued during each quarter. They also report citations issued as a result of other motor vehicle law violations observed by officers. Exceeding the posted speed limit, failing to use seat belts, improper use of child safety seats, and aggressive driving are some of the violations commonly observed by officers while they were conducting enforcement under this program. These are documented on quarterly progress reports and performance measures received from School Bus Safety Enforcement grant recipients (**Appendix B, "Enforcement Summary"**).

Although some agencies were able to issue more warnings or citations than others, this does not necessarily imply ineffectiveness on the part of some agencies as it is difficult to determine the effectiveness of this program based on data alone. The presence of a police vehicle and/or a police officer can cause motorists to decrease their speed, drive more cautiously, and obey all traffic laws, resulting in reducing or avoiding violations and demonstrating the effectiveness of this program. Additionally, in order to discern the effectiveness of program activities, Crime Control & Prevention monitors utilize different tools to track activities throughout the Fiscal Year. Monitoring tools include reviewing quarterly programmatic and financial reports; regular communication with sub-recipients to ensure their compliance with general and special

conditions of the grant; desk audits to address barriers and expenditures; and site visits to view the strategies set in place to enforce school bus safety laws.

The School Bus Safety Enforcement Program has been effective in establishing partnerships between the law enforcement community and school safety advocacy groups. Additionally, the program has been successful in fostering a spirit of increased awareness and safety between the education community and the general public.

Starting in FY 2018, the School Safety Enforcement Fund will also give consideration to entities who demonstrate collaboration between law enforcement and local school boards, explore and establish emergency safety measure protocols, demonstrate a need for school security hardware and equipment, as well as those who include trainings for School Resource Officers in their programs.

Status of the School Safety Enforcement Fund

In FY 2017, all of the funds used by law enforcement agencies were spent on overtime enforcement activities and public information campaigns. These funds were not used to supplant regular patrol activities.

Consistent with allowances in the statute, Crime Control & Prevention has designated an employee to administer this program. During FY 2017, a total of \$24,350.78 was spent for the salary and fringe and operational costs for this position as well as the pro-rated salary and fringe of regional monitors when working on School Bus Safety Enforcement (reviewing quarterly programmatic reports, conducting site visits, monitoring the administrative and operational aspects of the program, ensuring compliance with state policies and regulations). During FY 2017, local law enforcement agencies expended \$565,384.55, which includes initial awards totaling \$550,000 plus supplemental funds provided to agencies demonstrating a need for additional funding during the course of the grant year. As of June 30, 2017, the School Bus Safety Enforcement non-lapsing fund balance is \$283,087.51.

FY 2018

Crime Control & Prevention awarded grants beginning August 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018 to 55 Maryland law enforcement agencies in 22 Maryland counties totaling \$625,000. It is expected that with the broadening of the scope from school bus safety enforcement to school safety enforcement, expansion of public awareness of this program will continue during FY 2018, and that participating law enforcement agencies will be successful in enforcing Maryland's laws regarding failing to stop and/or remain stopped for school buses. Funding will also support proactive safety measures such as emergency preparedness, security upgrades for schools,

training for school resource officers, as well as public service announcements through theaters, billboards, radio, and public television.

Appendix A: FY 2017 Grant Recipients

<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Initial Amount Awarded</u>
Allegany County	
SBSE-2017-1202 Allegany County Sheriff's Office	\$5,000.00
SBSE-2017-1848 Maryland State Police	\$9,000.00
SBSE-2017-1888 Cumberland Police Department	\$5,000.00
Anne Arundel County	
SBSE-2017-1833 Annapolis City Police Department	\$11,400.00
SBSE-2017-1930 Anne Arundel County Police Department Headquarters	\$16,000.00
Baltimore County	
SBSE-2017-1921 Baltimore County Police Department	\$35,000.00
Calvert County	
SBSE-2017-1855 Calvert County Sheriff's Office	\$8,000.00
SBSE-2017-1863 Maryland State Police	\$12,000.00
Caroline County	
SBSE-2017-1813 Caroline County Sheriff's Office	\$3,000.00
Carroll County	
SBSE-2017-1001 Town of Sykesville	\$1,000.00
SBSE-2017-1304 Taneytown Police Department	\$1,000.00
SBSE-2017-1406 Hampstead Police Department	\$6,000.00
SBSE-2017-1810 Maryland State Police	\$12,000.00
SBSE-2017-1842 Carroll County Sheriff's Office	\$12,288.00
Cecil County	

SBSE-2017-1711 Maryland State Police	\$12,000.00
SBSE-2017-1854 Cecil County Sheriff's Law Enforcement Facility	\$2,000.00
Charles County	
SBSE-2017-1031 Charles County Sheriff's Office	\$16,000.00
SBSE-2017-1914 Maryland State Police	\$7,000.00
Dorchester County	
SBSE-2017-1803 Dorchester County Council	\$26,000.00
SBSE-2017-1807 Cambridge Police Department	\$9,000.00
Frederick County	
SBSE-2017-1032 Frederick City Police Department	\$17,000.00
SBSE-2017-1850 Maryland State Police	\$10,000.00
Garrett County	
SBSE-2017-1816 Maryland State Police	\$9,000.00
SBSE-2017-1858 Garrett County Sheriff's Office	\$18,000.00
Harford County	
SBSE-2017-1805 Maryland State Police	\$10,000.00
SBSE-2017-1825 Harford County Sheriff's Office	\$19,000.00
Howard County	
SBSE-2017-1923 Howard County Police Department	\$25,000.00
Kent County	
SBSE-2017-1939 Kent County Sheriff's Office	\$16,000.00
Prince George's County	
SBSE-2017-1302 Bladensburg Police Department	\$6,000.00
SBSE-2017-1759 City of New Carrollton	\$4,000.00

SBSE-2017-1838 Prince George's County Police Department	\$14,000.00
Queen Anne's County	
SBSE-2017-0001 Queen Anne's County Sheriff's Office	\$5,000.00
SBSE-2017-1841 Town of Centreville	\$10,000.00
SBSE-2017-1908 Maryland State Police	\$12,000.00
Somerset County	
SBSE-2017-1002 Princess Anne Police Department	\$8,700.00
SBSE-2017-1301 Crisfield Police Department	\$6,000.00
SBSE-2017-1802 Somerset County Sheriff's Office	\$14,000.00
SBSE-2017-1817 Maryland State Police	\$5,000.00
St. Mary's County	
SBSE-2017-1824 St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office	\$14,000.00
SBSE-2017-1913 Maryland State Police	\$14,000.00
Talbot County	
SBSE-2017-1849 Maryland State Police	\$4,000.00
SBSE-2017-1934 Talbot County Sheriff's Office	\$6,000.00
Washington County	
SBSE-2017-1804 Washington County Sheriff's Office	\$10,000.00
SBSE-2017-1818 Maryland State Police	\$18,000.00
Wicomico County	
SBSE-2017-1701 Fruitland Police Department	\$2,500.00
SBSE-2017-1809 Maryland State Police	\$15,000.00
SBSE-2017-1902 Wicomico County Sheriff's Office	\$15,000.00
Worcester County	

SBSE-2017-1402 Pocomoke City Police Department	\$4,000.00
SBSE-2017-1507 Maryland State Police	\$4,000.00
SBSE-2017-1936 Ocean City Police Department	\$17,512.00
TOTAL	\$541,400.00

Appendix B: Enforcement Summary

Applicant Agency	School Bus Citations	School Bus Warnings	Warning Letters	Complaints	Other Citations	Overtime Hours	Arrests	Stop Sign Citations	Seat Belt Citations	SERO	DUI Citations	Buses Followed
Allegany County Sheriff's Office	1	1	0	2	43	100	1	0	16	1	0	213
Annapolis City Police Department	23	1	0	2	3	192	0	0	0	0	0	968
Anne Arundel County, Maryland	37	79	164	760	13	236	1	1	0	4	0	483
Baltimore County, Maryland	87	7	49	71	81	496	0	0	5	19	3	432
Bladensburg Police Department	3	1	1	1	45	171	2	31	5	44	0	422
Calvert County Board of County Commissioners	7	4	26	46	20	141	3	3	4	7	1	38
Cambridge Police Department	1	1	0	24	85	239	2	18	22	24	9	157
Carroll County Sheriff's Office	5	0	0	1	73	279	5	1	0	5	0	281
Cecil County, Maryland	0	0	1	3	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	45
Charles County Board of County Commissioners	64	6	37	49	19	263	0	0	0	0	0	0
City of New Carrollton	8	5	0	0	67	70	8	25	13	15	0	0
County Commissioners of Caroline County	1	0	0	2	0	70	0	0	0	0	0	30
Crisfield Police Department	0	0	0	0	11	200	16	0	2	1	0	110
Cumberland Police Department	0	0	0	0	5	20	1	0	0	0	0	48
Dorchester County Council	4	3	0	31	1090	976	1255	17	21	131	70	2320
Frederick City Police Department	19	0	23	51	66	351	6	74	11	33	0	721
Fruitland Police Department	0	0	0	4	71	65	3	16	7	7	0	40
GarrettCounty Sheriff's Office	22	12	3	83	12	400	3	0	0	1	0	471
HarfordCounty, Maryland	75	8	31	66	15	335	0	0	1	0	0	632
HowardCounty, Maryland	23	0	36	62	50	218	1	0	21	0	0	290
Kent County Board of County Commissioners	1	0	0	2	61	343	7	0	4	0	0	388
MarylandState Police - Allegany - Cumberland	2	1	2	3	54	150	0	0	11	4	0	197
MarylandState Police - Calvert - Prince Frederick	0	0	0	0	9	98	0	0	0	3	0	78
MarylandState Police - Carroll - Westminster	12	2	8	11	23	260	3	0	4	57	5	216
MarylandState Police - Cecil - North East	0	0	0	0	34	225	2	2	3	4	2	206
MarylandState Police - Charles - La Plata	3	1	0	0	0	138	0	0	0	0	0	204
MarylandState Police - Garrett - McHenry	0	0	0	2	27	162	0	1	0	1	0	79
MarylandState Police - Frederick - Frederick	0	3	4	24	26	163	0	0	1	3	0	128
MarylandState Police - Harford - Bel Air	0	0	0	17	85	208	2	0	2	42	1	337
MarylandState Police - Queen Anne's - Centreville	0	2	0	142	1	186	0	1	0	0	0	213
MarylandState Police - Somerset - Princess Anne	0	0	1	1	33	90	0		3	3	0	28
MarylandState Police - St. Mary's - Leonardtown	7	19	0	11	7	244	1	2	1	0	0	272
MarylandState Police - Talbot - Easton	9	3	11	69	22	61	1	1	2	9	0	151
MarylandState Police - Wicomico - Salisbury	56	25	0	3	24	238	1	0	3	1	0	318
MarylandState Police - Washington - Hagerstown	5	4	28	43	8	216	0	0	0	4	0	62
MarylandState Police - Worcester - Berlin		7	0	0	28	77	0	0	2	2	0	62
OceanCity Police Department	62	278	0	0	304	530	20	4	19	85	1	576
Pocomoke City Police Department	0	1	0	0	63	117	9	13	2	9	0	25

Appendix B: Enforcement Summary												
Prince George's County, Maryland	76	1	0	0	6	167	0	0	0	0	0	80
Princess Anne Police Department	2	0	1	4	50	213	0	1	13	3	0	276
QueenAnne's County Sheriff's Office	2	0	4	139	4	153	2	0	0	1	0	94
Somerset County Sheriff's Office	1	0	0	2	0	356	0	0	0	0	0	171
St. Mary's County Government	8	0	5	20	5	149	0	0	0	0	0	51
Talbot County Sheriff's Office	0	0	1	2	91	189	0	4	4	4	0	23
Taneytown Police Department	2	0	0	0	8	29	1	2	0	0	0	72
Town of Centreville	0	0	0	3	0	332	2	1	1	10	0	336
Town of Hampstead	7	16	0	10	398	223	62	56	32	92	77	230
Town of Sykesville	0	0	0	0	432	26	0	31	11	342	12	695
Washington County Board of Commissioners	37	3	0	32	19	115	0	0	0	0	0	57
Wicomico County, Maryland	13	0	0	3	53	298	5	1	6	26	0	449
Total:	685	494	436	1,801	3,644	10,604	1,425	306	252	997	181	13,775